

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the above Amendment. Currently, Claims 1-21 and 50-59 are pending.

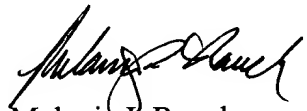
Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 18, thus Applicants respectfully request cancellation of Claim 18. Applicants have further amended Claim 1 to include a barrier layer. Support for this limitation is provided at page 15, lines 11-15, and in Figs. 5A and 5B. Applicants have amended Claims 15-17 and 19 to conform with the amendments to Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claim 50 in the same manner in which Claim 1 has been amended.

Applicants have added new Claims 60-74. Claims 60-74 are the same as original Claims 22, 27-35, 42-45, and 47, which were canceled in the previous Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 60-74.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. No additional fee is due for this Amendment because the total number of claims and the number of independent claims was covered by the initial filing fee.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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